

**FIRE INVESTIGATOR  
STUDY GUIDE**

A written examination for the class of **FIRE INVESTIGATOR** to be administered in **MONROE** on **MAY 12, 2010**, will consist of approximately **105** multiple-choice questions. The examination will test your knowledge in the following subject areas:

<b>SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM</b>
<b>FIRE &amp; SAFETY HAZARDS</b>  Knowledge of the factors which constitute ordinary or special fire hazards, including materials, conditions, or act which may contribute to the start of a fire, or increase the extent or severity of a fire; and of safety practices and procedures sufficient to identify the causes or conditions that result in fire department accidents; and to train subordinates in safety.	9.5%
<b>FIRE INVESTIGATION</b>  Knowledge of the procedures for conducting a fire investigation and for determining the cause of a fire, including deciding what may be considered unusual at a fire scene; char and burn patterns; factors affecting fire spread; determination of the point of origin and probable cause of a fire; interview procedures; law enforcement procedures related to fire investigations; and collection of evidence, including fire scene photography.	31.4%
<b>EVIDENCE COLLECTION</b>  Knowledge of evidence collection practices and procedures, including knowledge of what constitutes admissible evidence in a court of law; of the procedures for securing and protecting evidence and the legal parameters relative to evidence security; of the use of basic photography equipment; and of laboratory requirements for processing evidence.	9.5%
<b>FIRE CHEMISTRY</b>  Knowledge of the chemistry of fire, including ignition temperatures and properties of flammable and combustible materials, flame and smoke spread, and products of combustion.	9.5%

SUBJECT AREA/KNOWLEDGE	APPROXIMATE % OF EXAM
<b>FIRE RECORDS, REPORTS, &amp; CORRESPONDENCE</b>  Knowledge of the information gathering process and procedures for completing required reports or producing required correspondence, including fire scene investigation notes, and completing necessary sketches and diagrams, in order to document the performance of fire prevention duties.	11.4%
<b>PUBLIC FIRE EDUCATION</b>  Knowledge of the principles of public fire education needed to inform the public about fire safety during the performance of regular fire investigation duties.	12.4%
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS</b>  Knowledge of accepted public relations practices in order to interact with the media and with the public in various situations including fire prevention activities.	11.4%
<b>MANAGING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES</b>  Knowledge of the maintenance of equipment and supplies, including inventory control.	4.8%

## REFERENCE LIST

While the entire list of reference material will be useful to you in your preparation for the upcoming examination, the **majority** of test questions are sourced from those references listed under the Primary List.

### PRIMARY REFERENCE MATERIAL

#### INTERNATIONAL FIRE SERVICE TRAINING ASSOCIATION (IFSTA)/ FIRE PROTECTION PUBLICATIONS (Training Manuals):

Introduction to Fire Origin and Cause, 3rd ed., 2005.  
 Essentials of Firefighting, 4th ed., 1998.  
 Fire and Life Safety Educator, 2nd ed., 1997.

**KIRK'S FIRE INVESTIGATION**, Brady, A Prentice-Hall Division, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 07632, 5th ed., 2002.

**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) PUBLICATIONS AND STANDARDS:**

**FIRE PROTECTION HANDBOOK**, NFPA, 19th ed., 2003.

**OTHER RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS:**

**EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY PRACTICES**, International City Management Association (ICMA), 1120 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, 4th ed., 2005.

**NOTE: Obtain through LSU Firemen Training Program or IFSTA Fire Protection Publications.**

**BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS**, Dumont, Raymond, and Lannon, John, Southeastern Massachusetts University, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 2nd ed., 1987.

The local civil service board should make this study guide available to all applicants in whatever manner the board deems appropriate.

While there are no provisions requiring this office to provide study guides for any competitive or promotional examinations, such material will be provided as a service to assist applicants in preparing for an examination. The State Examiner's office has no control whatsoever over the local availability of reference material(mentioned in the study guides), nor do we feelconstrained to limit examination questions to only that material which is available locally. Examination content, weighting of subject areas, and length of examination, may vary with each administration of an examination to reflect any updated job analysis information. Percentages and numerical estimations are provided as approximations.